

VETERINARY BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Minutes of Meeting

A meeting of the Washington State Veterinary Board of Governors was called to order at 9:00 AM on Thursday, September 27, 2007, by William Keatts, DVM, Vice-Chair. The meeting was held at the Red Lion Hotel, Yakima Center, 607 East Yakima Avenue, in the Yakima Room.

Yakima Washington

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Keatts, DVM
Harmon Rogers, DVM
Camilo de Guzman, DVM
Holly Bard, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT: Judy Haenke, Acting Executive Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Shirley Sandoval, LVT
Lori Lutskas, LVT
Kathy Kube
Markiva Contris, LVT

Open Session: 9:30 a.m.

Call to Order – William Keatts, DVM, Vice-Chair

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- An 11:00 presentation of an agreed order by Kristi Weeks, Staff Attorney. The order will be presented telephonically.
- Consider changing the date and location of the September 2008 meeting to coincide with the October meeting of the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association in Spokane.

2. Approval of the June 11, 2007 Minutes

The minutes were approved with a grammatical correction to Item. Change “will consider” to “considered”.

Reports - Information

3. William Keatts, DVM, Vice-Chair

Dr. Keatts reported that Timothy Gintz, DVM was appointed to the Veterinary Board of Governors by Governor Gregoire on July 17, 2007. Dr. Gintz practices in Tacoma where he is the Medical Director and practicing Veterinarian at Pacific Avenue Veterinary Centers. He was not able to attend today's meeting because of a scheduling conflict, but will be present at the December meeting.

Tomorrow morning, Department of Health staff including Kristi Weeks, Supervising Staff Attorney, Dave Magby, Chief Investigator Judy Haenke, and William Keatts, DVM, will be giving a presentation at the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association meeting regarding the disciplinary process, from Complaint to Adjudication. The presentation is 50 minutes long and begins at 8:00 a.m...

4. Judy Haenke, Acting Executive Director

Ms Haenke reported on the following:

Legislators will hold several public hearings to discuss the audit. The tentative schedule includes the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) hearing, September 26. Other tentative hearings include the House Health Care & Wellness Committee hearing on September 28 at 10 am. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government and Audit Review is also tentatively scheduled on September 28 at 1:30 pm.

We will confirm hearing dates and times and provide additional information as soon as it is available.

Because of the possible conflict with the House committee hearings, the Department has cancelled the annual Board, Commission and Committee meeting scheduled for September 28. The Department will hold the afternoon leadership forum and the evening dinner and workshop for all board and commission members on September 27 in Tumwater.

The annual Health Professions Quality Assurance Office Update for Associations is on October 22 at 1:30 pm Tumwater. At that meeting the performance audit, its suggestions and the Department's progress and other issues of interest will be discussed.

The Citizen Advocacy Center meeting will be held from October 29-31, in Seattle. The Washington State Department of Health will again co-host the Citizen Advocacy Center meeting. The theme of this year's conference is "Creative Regulation: Keeping Boards Relevant."

We have been in contact with the governor's office regarding the vacancies on the Board. Recent staff shortages in the Board appointment office has resulted in delays in appointments. We will continue to speak with them. A packet of applicants for the Veterinary Technician position on the Board was submitted on August 13.

Discussion:

5. Sanctioning Guidelines

In July 2007, the Board heard a presentation of the Sanction Guidelines and determined that it would postpone discussion of the guidelines until this meeting, at which time additional discussion could take place.

The guidelines were adopted by the Secretary in May 2006 for secretary authority professions. The guidelines are a tool to assure that consistent sanctions are imposed for similar violations. The guidelines provide a range of sanctions for specific violations and include aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Use of the guidelines provides consistency of sanctions.

Following discussion, the Board endorsed the concept of the sanctions and voted to adopt the sanction as they exist with a future effort to enhance the sanctions to include the unique aspects of veterinary medicine.

6. Performance Audit – Health Professions Quality Assurance

The Board reviewed and discussed the audit conducted through the Office of the Washington State Auditor at the request of Governor Gregoire. The audit is among the first of a series of state performance audits conducted after voters approved Initiative 900.

The audit is the product of 7 full-time auditors working for 5 months. The report makes 13 recommendations for improvements that include up to 70 possible actions to make them happen. Many of the audit's other recommendations would require more money or legislative action, or both.

The Department has sent a response to the 13 findings, which is incorporated into the report. The Board received a letter from Governor Gregoire which highlights specific action that is high priority.

Rules Work Session:

7. Report on Current status of rulemaking

7.1 Continuing education rules

These rules were filed for permanent adoption on September 19, 2007. Rules are effective 31 days after filing.

7.2 Examination and licensure rules

These rules were filed for permanent adoption on September 25, 2007. Rules are effective 31 days after filing.

7.3 Veterinary Technician Suturing Rules

The rules authorizing suturing by veterinary technicians was filed for permanent adoption on August 24, 2007. A second Preproposal Statement of Inquiry will need to be filed to continue review and revision of WAC 246-935-050.

7.4 Veterinary Technician Health Care Task Rules

A CR 101 can be filed as soon as the CR 103 Suturing rule is codified by the Code Reviser. This should be completed in early October. At the time, a new CR 101 can be initiated to continue work on the review, updating and revision of WAC 246-935-050.

An initial draft with proposed changes was sent out to interested persons for comment. The comments that were received were reviewed by the Board.

The board considered a request from Washington State Veterinary Medical Association to establish a work group to work together to propose a final draft to present for the Board. The Association also requested that a member of the Board participate on the workgroup. The Board agreed that this would be useful and that the meetings should be facilitated by the Department of Health.

7.5 Patient abandonment and facilities and practice management rules.

The board reviewed a final draft of the proposal and made final editorial changes. Staff will prepare the rule for adoption.

8. The Board will continue its review of administrative rules:

Patient abandonment and facilities and practice management

Patient Abandonment:	WAC 246-933-060
Definitions.	WAC 246-933-310
General requirements for all veterinary medical facilities	WAC 246-933-320
Minimum physical facilities.	WAC 246-933-330
Practice management.	WAC 246-933-340

The board reviewed a final draft of the proposal and made additional editorial changes. Staff will prepare the rule for adoption.

9. WAC 246-933-300 Veterinary specialty licensure.

The Board will considered possible rulemaking to update and clarify this rule.

Dr. Skip Nelson asked that the Board approve amendment of this rule to align the rule with recent changes to WAC 246-933-230 Foreign trained veterinarian. That rule now includes referenced to both the Education Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) Program and the Program for Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) program.

Dr. Nelson requested that WAC 246-933-300, regarding veterinary specialty licensure, be amended to include that an applicant who is not a graduate of an approved program provide evidence of completion of either the ECFVG or the PAVE programs.

Following discussion, the Board determined that the rule should be amended. Staff will prepare the Notice in Inquiry as appropriate to initiate rulemaking.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Dates:

The Board agreed to move its originally planned September 2008 meeting to October 2, 2008 to be held in Spokane. This meeting will coincide with the Fall meeting of the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association.

10. Development of rules to implement House Bill 1331 Related to Veterinary Technicians

This portion of the meeting was open for public participation. The purpose of the discussion was to continue development of rules necessary to implement House Bill 1331.

House Bill 1331, adopted by the 2007 Legislature, does the following:

- Changes the status of veterinary technicians from registration to licensure.
- Directs the Veterinary Board of Governors to adopt rules identifying standard tasks and procedures for the training of candidates who qualify through practical experience.
- Directs the Veterinary Board of Governors to adopt rules for minimum standards of continuing education for licensed veterinary technicians.
- Adds a licensed veterinary technician to the Veterinary Board of Governors.

A Stakeholder meeting was held on August 17, 2007. At that meeting, a proposed draft of tasks and procedures that should be completed during the period of practical experience was developed using lists of tasks already prepared and utilized by recognized institutions and organizations including:

The Purdue University's Veterinary Technology program. The list was developed from the American Veterinary Medical Association's Essential Tasks as listed in the Committee for Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) Policies and Procedures. Purdue University's Veterinary Technology program has given approval to utilize its list of Essential Veterinary Technician tasks provided credit is given. The "Essential and Recommended Skills List" AVMA was also utilized in developing the proposed lists of tasks.

The Board and those present discussed proposed draft of standard tasks and procedures that must be included in the experience of a person who qualifies to take the veterinary technician examination through the period of practical experience. Changes were recommended to the proposed draft rules.

The proposed changes will be incorporated and the proposed rules and will be sent to interested persons for comment.

A draft of proposed continuing education rules was discussed and some changes recommended. Those changes will be incorporated into the rules and will be sent to interested persons for comment.

11. Open Forum 3:30 p.m.

No comments were received from the public.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Janette Benham, Acting Program Manager

APPROVED: _____
William Keatts, DVM, Vice Chair